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CITY OF CHICHESTER.

INTERIM REPORT

ON THE STATE OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH

OF THE

CITY OF CHICHESTER

1943

BY

H. MICHAEL AYRES,

Medical Officer of Health.

CITY OF CHICHESTER

Public Health Department,
North Street,
Chichester.

June, 1944.

To the Right Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the City of Chichester.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my second annual report of the work carried out in the Health Department during the year 1943. In accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 10/44 dated the 15th February, 1944, it has been necessary for considerable information to be excluded from this report, but if any member of the Council would care to have further details, these can be supplied personally. I should like to draw your attention to the following points.

1. Births and Deaths:

There were 308 births in 1943, compared with 275 in 1942, whilst there were 220 deaths in 1943 compared with 206 in 1942.

The birth rate for 1943 is 18.67 per thousand of the estimated population, whilst the death rate is 13.34 per thousand of the estimated population. (The figures for 1942 were 15.78 and 11.82 respectively).

2. Infectious Diseases:

During 1943 there were 262 notifications of infectious disease as compared with 359 in 1942, but I would draw your attention to the fact that there were only nine cases of diphtheria and no deaths. As far as can be ascertained, one of these cases had been immunised.

3. Diphtheria Immunisation:

You will note on page 6 the records of diphtheria immunisation in the City. It will be seen that a total of 3903 children have been immunised, and that it is estimated that 68.38% under five years of age and 90.97% of children between the ages of five and fifteen years have been immunised.

Every effort has been made to establish contact between medical practitioners, nurses and the parents to obtain consent for the protection of their children, and it is hoped that an increasing number of children will be treated in the near future.

4. Sanitation:

Although Mr Nash, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, and his Assistant, Mr Yates, have considerably added duties, housing inspection and milk sampling have received special attention. General details of this work are contained in the report on page 10.

5. Scabies, Tuberculosis and Venereal Disease:

Special notes are contained in the body of the report.

6. Sewage Disposal.

After consultation with the City Engineer, and a visit to the Sewage Disposal Works with your consultant, Professor John Eyre, M.D., it is evident that the modernising of the Works, consequent on the increasing population, is a matter of urgency, and I am confident that the appropriate Committee will deal with an appropriate scheme at the earliest possible date.

I again wish to place on record my appreciation of the invaluable assistance which has been accorded me by Mr Nash and the staff of the Public Health Department. I have also enjoyed the full co-operation of my colleagues on the City staff, the general practitioners of the district and the full co-operation of the general public.

I am deeply indebted to his Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the City, and for the unstinting support which has been accorded me during the year by the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

H.M. AYRES,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

1. General Statistics.

Area in acres	2,869
Population (Census 1921))	
Population (Census 1931)) Not to be	
Registrar General's Estimate) recorded.	
of Resident Population (1943))	
Number of inhabited Houses (1921)	2,647
Number of inhabited houses (1931)	2,869
Number of families or separate occupiers (Census 1921)	2,721
Number of families or separate occupiers (Census 1931)	3,187
Rateable value	£158,383
Sum represented by a penny rate	£620

2. Social Conditions and Occupations.

The City is chiefly a residential district, the outlying parts are agricultural, and there are no occupations which have a definite prejudicial effect on health.

3. Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

		Ttl.	Males	Fem.	
Births -					Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated Population 18.67.
Live Births -	Legitimate	266	146	120	
	Illegitimate	42	13	29	
		308	159	149	
Still Births -	Legitimate	11	7	4	Rate per 1000 total (live & still births)
	Illegitimate	..	..	..	
		11	7	4	births..38.48
Deaths -		220	108	112	Death rate per 1000 of the estimated population 13.34.

Total number of deaths occurring in Public Institutions... 107
(percentage of total deaths 48).
Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth
From sepsis 0
From other causes 0
Number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age 15
Death rate of infants under 1 year of age per 1000 live births 48.7
There were 266 legitimate children born and 15 deaths, therefore the death rate per 1,000 is 56.3
There were 42 illegitimate children born and 1 died, therefore the death rate per 1,000 is 23.8
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 23
Deaths from Measles (all ages) 0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) 0
Deaths from Diarrhoea, etc, (under two years of age) 1

STATISTICS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

Birth Rate	16.5	(15.8)
Death Rate	13.34	(11.6)
Infant Mortality Rate	49	(49)

(The figures in brackets represent the rates for the year 1942).

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following cases were notified during 1943:-

	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 plus	TOTAL
Diphtheria	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	5	-	1	-	9
Scarlet Fever	-	1	5	4	5	18	-	3	4	3	1	-	44
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Pneumonia	4	1	-	2	-	2	2	3	9	6	19	16	64
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	3	-	-	8
Measles	4	9	11	19	18	43	8	1	5	1	-	-	119
Whooping Cough	-	3	3	-	3	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	2	1	-	8
	9	14	19	26	26	71	10	10	32	15	22	16	272

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE (Cont'd).

TUBERCULOSIS

Ten new cases (compared with 19 in 1942) were added to the register during 1943:-

Pulmonary Males	4	Non-pulmonary Males	1
Pulmonary Females	2	" " Females	3
	6		4

There were seven deaths from tuberculosis during the year, 5 from pulmonary tuberculosis and 2 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

This gives a death rate of 0.42 per thousand of the population.

The number of cases of tuberculosis on the Register at December 31st 1943, was 167 as compared with 164 at December 31st, 1942.

BACTERIOLOGICAL SPECIMENS.

As in previous years, swabs for examination for the presence of K.L.B. or Haemolytic streptoccocci, and specimens for typhoid bacilli have been submitted to Dr. F. Standish for examination during 1943, both by the Health Department and by general practitioners.

The number of examinations of swabs and specimens submitted was as follows:-

Specimens.	No. submitted for Examination.
(1) Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli.	146
(2) Swabs for Scarlet Fever.	40
(3) Specimens for Dysentery.	2
	188

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During the year 1943 431 children have been innoculated against diphtheria and approximately 68.38 per cent of children under five years of age and 90.97 per cent of children between the ages of five and fifteen years have been immunised.

Diphtheria immunisation is purely voluntary and completely free of cost.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION (Cont'd).

The following are details of children who have been immunised against diphtheria:-

YEAR.	AGES 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14 & over	TOTAL
1935 - 7	60	56	69	92	139	130	138	142	140	126	145	139	121	32	1529
1938	-	-	-	-	3	5	2	4	2	1	-	1	1	1	20
1940	8	18	19	9	32	52	24	22	13	11	20	10	15	5	258
1941	45	97	64	79	75	86	96	83	68	80	81	62	54	72	1042
1942	137	73	60	40	63	54	32	35	27	21	22	24	19	16	623
1943	136	45	25	30	34	28	13	20	18	18	27	14	17	6	431
Total															3903

As far as can be ascertained, only one clinical case of diphtheria has occurred amongst these children.

SCABIES.

The Scabies Order was introduced in October, 1941.

There is no compulsory notification but the Order gives power to inspect premises, and secure the treatment of persons suffering from scabies.

School children are seen at the Clinic in Chapel Street, and if necessary, referred for treatment to St. Richard's Hospital, Chichester.

Considerable publicity has been given to this subject.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

The City Isolation Hospital has 28 beds. There are separate blocks for scarlet fever and diphtheria, together with a modern cell block. It is supported wholly by the City Council, but admits patients from other areas by agreement.

The following cases of infectious disease were admitted during 1943.

Scarlet Fever	99
Diphtheria	18
Chicken-pox	9
Whooping Cough	1
Erysipelas	2
Meningitis	2
Mumps	11
Pneumonia	1
Measles	28
Typhoid Fever	1
Dysentery	1
German Measles	1
Observation	23
	197

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

(1) TUBERCULOSIS.

There is no change from the previous year with regard to the treatment of tuberculosis. Cases are admitted either to Aldingbourne House (accommodation 70 persons) or to a ward at Worthing Isolation Hospital, Swandean (accommodation 12 beds), whilst surgical cases are admitted to St. Richard's Hospital, Chichester, to the Royal Sea-Bathing Hospital, Margate, or to the Lord Mayor Treloar's Hospital, Alton, Hants (for children).

(2) MATERNITY.

The County Council arranged for resident and evacuated expectant mothers to be admitted to:-

(a) Brighton Hospital for Women.
(b) Southlands Hospital, Shoreham.
(c) Worthing Hospital Maternity Home.
(d) Improvised Maternity Homes at Haselmere, Hindhead and Woking.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL (Cont'd).

(3) CHILDREN.

The County Council arranges whenever necessary for the admission of children under the age of 12 months to the Alexandra Hospital for Children, Brighton. No cases were received there during the year from this area.

(4) SMALLPOX.

The County Council's reservation of two beds in the Brighton Small-Pox Hospital at Fulking remains unchanged.

(5) MENTAL.

The Graylingwell Hospital has an accommodation of 1,080 beds plus 300 E.M.S. beds.

(6) GENERAL.

St. Richard's Hospital has an accommodation of 578 beds which are available for general cases.

HOSPITALS NOT SUBSIDISED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY OR THE COUNTY COUNCIL BUT AVAILABLE FOR PATIENTS RESIDENT IN THE DISTRICT.

(1) The Royal West Sussex Hospital with 114 beds plus 220 E.M.S. beds.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) For infectious diseases two motor ambulances are provided by the City Council and kept at the City Isolation Hospital.

(b) For non-infectious or accident cases, three motor ambulances are provided which are owned by the local branch of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. The Council contribute £50 per annum as a subscription towards the cost of running the ambulances. The service rendered is excellent.

CLINIC & TREATMENT CENTRES.

A. MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE.

A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre (consultation and treatment) is situated at Chapel Street under the control of the West Sussex County Council.

B. SCHOOL CLINICS.

School Clinics have been held as during the previous year and the service has been extended to evacuee school-children.

C. TUBERCULOSIS CLINICS.

These have been held at Chapel Street, Chichester, as in previous years.

CLINIC & TREATMENT CENTRES (Cont'd).

D. VENEREAL DISEASES.

The County Council's arrangements for clinics to be held at Brighton, Worthing and Portsmouth are unchanged.

For men and women patients General Practitioners' Clinics are held at Horsham and at St. Richard's Hospital, Chichester.

E. PSYCHIATRIC OUT-PATIENTS' CLINIC.

This Clinic is held at the Royal West Sussex Hospital weekly at which Dr. Joshua Carse, The Medical Superintendent of Graylingwell Hospital, is the Honorary Consulting Psychiatrist.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

1. GENERAL.

This work is carried out by the Chichester District Nursing Association, working in conjunction with the West Sussex County Council.

2. INFECTIOUS DISEASES, MEASLES, ETC.

Nurses attached to the District Nursing Association visit cases of measles on occasion when required, and the City contribute £30 per annum for their services.

WATER.

52 samples of water were taken by the Sanitary Inspector during the year for bacteriological examination by the Public Analyst, and organisms of the Coli group gave negative results in 100 ml.

Two samples were taken for chemical analysis which showed the total hardness of the water was 17.0, 17.6 grains per gallon and hardness (after boiling) was 2.6, 4.9 grains per gallon. The result of these examinations shews the water to be both chemically and bacteriologically satisfactory and perfectly safe for drinking purposes.

All workmen engaged in the Water Department are submitted to a blood test for enteric fever before they are engaged.

There is a sufficient supply of water at the Waterworks at Fishbourne about 1½ miles from the City, with a storage reservoir at Lavant of 2,000,000 gallons capacity, but the supply to the City in the day-time is direct from the well, 115 feet deep.

The supply is constant, not more than 20 houses in the City are supplied by shallow wells. These houses are farm houses and in such a position that they are unable to be connected with the town supply at present.

The Council have now under construction at Funtington another well and waterworks which will be an additional supply for the City.

HOUSING.

Number of Houses owned by the Local Authority.

The Council own 531 houses

Under the Additional Powers Act, 1919	22
Under the Housing Act, 1923	12
Under the Housing Act, 1924	333
Under the Housing Act, 1930	76
Under the Housing Act, 1936	42
By other powers	46

Certain condemned houses have been requisitioned by the Council and made temporarily habitable.

No statutory action has been taken during the year.

There has been considerable difficulty during the year in the matter of labour and material, but every effort to maintain this important work has been continued, and 647 visits have been made, notwithstanding the large amount of extra work which my department have been called upon to carry out.

The details of this work are omitted from this report but are always available.

POST WAR HOUSING.

This has been considered by the City Council.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk sampling has been carried out as in previous years, and visits have been paid to cowsheds, dairies, bakehouses, stores and places where food is prepared and sold. The details of the foregoing inspections are available.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector is the Officer appointed under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations of 1924. As part of the War-time arrangements for the distribution of meat, slaughtering for not only the City, but the adjacent areas has been concentrated into the City of Chichester.

The Ministry of Food have requisitioned three slaughter-houses in which to carry out this work, and the Chief Sanitary Inspector or his Assistant regularly visit these slaughter-houses at the time of slaughter or on completion and personally inspects all animals and carcases, which has increased the work in my department very considerably.

The total number of animals slaughtered during the year 1943 was 14790 made up as follows:-

2064 Cattle.
7345 Sheep.
3258 Calves.
2123 Pigs.
14790

The following have been condemned and destroyed:-

78 Cattle.
11 Calves.
19 Sheep.
23 Pigs.
30 tons, 4 cwts., 75 lbs of Meat & Offals.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD (Cont'd).

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Pigs	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs.
Number killed	2123	960	1104	3258	7345
Number inspected	"	"	"	"	"
All diseases except Tuberculosis - Whole carcases condemned	8	2	3	3	19
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned.	14	75	229	8	41
Percentage of the number part affected with disease other than tuberculosis.	0.65	7.81	20.74	0.24	0.55
Tuberculosis only - Whole carcases condemned	15	6	67	8	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	44	27	255	1	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	2.77	3.43	29.16	0.27	-

GOVERNMENT SLAUGHTERHOUSE STOCKBRIDGE ROAD, CHICHESTER.

I am pleased to report that as the result of representations made to the Ministry of Food, considerable improvement has been affected at this Slaughterhouse during the year. Additional hanging capacity has been provided, also lairage for cattle has been provided, and the yard at the entrance to the Slaughterhouse has been paved.

The Butchers' shops and vehicles are kept under observation and are satisfactory.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937, & SHOPS ACT, 1934.
EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN BYE-LAWS AND EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG PERSONS.

Visits have been paid in accordance with the scope of these Acts and employment cards issued to suitable children.

RATS & MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT OF 1919.

During the year at all premises on which rats were found to exist Occupiers have been requested to take steps to destroy them.

Poison is systematically used at the Council's refuse heaps, sewage works and other property with satisfactory results.

S.T.
5.7.44.

I N D E X.

	Page.
Ambulance Facilities ...	8
Area	3
Births and Birth Rate ..	3
Cancer	3
Clinics	8 & 9
Deaths and Death Rate ..	3
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	3
Diphtheria	4,5,6 & 7
Diphtheria	5 & 6
Factories and Workplaces	11
Foods, Meat and Other	10 &11
General Statistics ...	3
Hospitals	7 & 8
Houses (Inhabited) ...	3
Housing	10
Infantile Mortality ...	3
Infectious Diseases ...	3,4 5,6 & 7
Infectious Diseases Hospital	7
Laboratory Facilities ..	5
Measles	3
Meat and Other Foods	10 & 11
Milk	10
Nursing in the Home ...	9
Population	3
Psychiatric Out-Patients'	9
Rateable Value	3
Rats & Mice Destruction Act	11
Scabies	6
Scarlet Fever ...	4,5 & 7
Shops Act, 1934 ...	11
Social Conditions .	3
Still Births ...	3
Treatment Centres .	8 & 9
Tuberculosis ...	5,7 & 8
Venereal Diseases .	9
Vital Statistics ..	3
Water	9
Whooping Cough ...	3